

Trade Notes...

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Two New Residue Databases Now Available To Help U.S. Exporters

Using funds provided through the USDA TASC (Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops) Program, CropLife America and AgriChem Data Service worked with FAS to develop databases to aid U.S. growers and exporters in the identification of maximum residue limits (MRLs) for specialty crops they wish to export. The first coordinated source of information relating to MRL tolerances, the databases compare MRL tolerances in the United States with those in other countries. The International Maximum Residue Limits database provides users with a list of MRL tolerances by active ingredient to specific destinations. Users may query by crop, pesticide active ingredient and pesticide type. More than 300 fruits, vegetables and nuts are covered, as are 272 pesticides approved by the Environmental Protection Agency for use on commodities in the United States. MRL data are included for 70 countries, the European Union and the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Each country included in the database represents, at a minimum, \$1 million in annual export revenue for U.S. horticultural commodities. This database can help growers, exporters, chemical manufacturers and regulators determine the MRLs of U.S. trading partners. IPAD (the International Pesticide and Application Database) helps users determine rates and limitations on the use of agricultural pesticides. IPAD is a crop-specific database that cross-references pesticides by chemical brand name, method of application, rates and frequency of application, as well as pre- and post-harvest interval. The database contains information for the United States, Mexico and Canada, 42 crops, 1,400 active ingredients, 29 pesticide types and 14 timings, resulting in nearly 24 million combinations. The site is located at www.fas.usda.gov/http. **Disclaimer:** FAS makes no representations, guarantees or warranties as to the accuracy or completeness of information on the Web site. FAS does not endorse any products, services or views referenced on the site.

Exports of Darker U.S. Wood Products to Japan Soar

Japanese demand for high-grade dark lumber has increased substantially to meet the growing demand for more stylish furniture in the Japanese high-end market. U.S. exports of walnut lumber to Japan increased from \$3.2 million in 2001 to \$4.5 million in 2002. During January-October 2003, walnut lumber exports to Japan reached \$8.6 million, well above the \$3.1 million of exports recorded during the same period in 2002. U.S. exports of cherry to Japan during January-October 2003 increased 58 percent to \$1.9 million, compared to \$1.2 million in 2002. Japanese art college students have shown a strong interest in including cherry and walnut in furniture design projects. Also, in the commercial districts of major cities, furniture showrooms display sleek, streamlined styles incorporating solid wood products such as walnut.

Serbia Reopens Market for U.S. Poultry

Last December, after a two-year ban, the first shipment of U.S. poultry arrived in Serbia. Before this shipment, the United States was one of only three countries denied total access to the Serbian market. Serbian authorities had banned U.S. poultry due to concerns about the use of antibiotics in poultry feed as well as U.S. poultry processing practices. U.S. export trade has the potential to reach \$15 million annually.